

CAPT. SLEVIN'S PRECINCT.

DR. PARKHURST DECLARES THAT THE OAK-ST. DISTRICT IS FOUL.

HIS SOCIETY ASKS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE VIGOROUS MEASURES—HE SUGGESTS THAT THE LAW OFFICIALS BE NOT ALLOWED TO TRY THEMSELVES THIS TIME—BYRNES WILL INVESTIGATE.

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, president of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, and T. D. Kenneway and Frank Moss, the lawyers of the society, have made a complaint against Police Captain Edward Slevin, of the Oak-st. squad, accusing him of neglect of duty in failing to close up certain disorderly houses in his precinct. The charges are set forth in letters to the Police Board, to Superintendent Byrnes and to Captain Slevin, and copies were sent also to Mayor Gilroy. The letter addressed to the Police Commissioners is appended:

To the Honorable, the Board of Police Commissioners:

Gentlemen: We submit to you herewith copies of communications which have this day been transmitted to Thomas Byrnes, Superintendent of Police, and to Captain Edward Slevin, of the Fourth Precinct.

While no members of the Police Department, you nevertheless constitute its administrative head and are in the last analysis, responsible for everything in the way of vice, wrongdoing, negligence or criminality that distinguishes any part of the service.

It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to direct your attention to the singular fact that which has been found by our detectives to be maintained as disorderly houses, and to demand that you immediately see to it that the pressure of the law is exerted in the immediate and impartial suppression of the same.

By examining the files in your office you will discover that complaints for the non-enforcement of the law in connection with the suppression of the Society for the Prevention of Crime against this same officer.

Your own appreciation of the fitness of things, as we would, would make it necessary for us to say that in order to determine fully the validity of our present complaint you will need to employ agencies other than those which are by the terms of the complaint made defendants in the case. Respectfully yours,

H. C. PARKHURST,
T. D. KENNEWAY,
FRANK MOSS,
Executive Committee.

Dec. 22, 1893.

THE SUPERINTENDENT ASKED TO ACT.

To Superintendent Byrnes also was inclosed a copy of the communication to Captain Slevin, and the Superintendent's attention was called to the section of the Consolidation act defining his duties. The letter ended as follows:

We therefore call upon you as executive head of the department to see that all measures are taken to look to the vigorous and impartial exercise of your authority in the Fourth Precinct, and that the resorts specified in the subjoined list, some of which are of exceptional grossness and baseness, be immediately suppressed.

The letter to Captain Slevin quoted sections defining his duties in regard to the suppression of disorderly houses in his precinct, and continued:

Your official position presupposes your acquaintance with the statutes and rule above cited, and it would be superfluous to bring them to your notice. It is not that their intent is evidently missed or ignored by you in your administration of the law, but that you do not practice them.

We raise no question as to the reasons for your disregard of the specific requirements just quoted. We simply affirm that the facts are well known and insist upon you that you correct your methods of administration. In particular we demand that you at once deal in the manner prescribed with the following places situated in your precinct, which our detectives have repeatedly visited, and which they are prepared to show are being run as disorderly houses.

The list of alleged disorderly houses includes eight in Cherry-st., three in James-st., two in New-Chambers-st., one in Oak-st., and several in Water-st.

The letter addressed to the Commissioners was read at their meeting yesterday afternoon, and inquiry was made by Commissioner McCleve regarding the other charges against Captain Slevin, mentioned as having been made previously by the Society for the Prevention of Crime. Major Kipp, the chief clerk, said he had examined the files, and had found out that the complaints had been made several years ago when the late Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby was the president of the Society. At the time Captain Slevin was in command of the Second Precinct, at the Church-st. station, and he was accused of failing to enforce the Excise law, and the law against pool-selling. Then Commissioner Martin started a discussion which continued in this fashion:

HOW THE BOARD RECEIVED IT.

Mr. Martin.—The letter says something about wanting us to employ other agencies than the police force in investigating the charges against Captain Slevin. I fail to see what agency we could employ unless Dr. Parkhurst wishes to rely on Commissioner MacLean. I am willing to refer the investigation to Mr. MacLean if he will undertake it.

Mr. Sheehan—I will vote to refer the matter to Mr. MacLean or to any other person who can get at the truth.

Mr. MacLean.—There is a misunderstanding of the meaning of the letter. Dr. Parkhurst only objects to having the investigation conducted in part by the accused captain.

Mr. Martin.—The Superintendent is also included in the complaint, a letter having been sent to him.

Mr. Sheehan.—The complaint would seem to embrace the entire department.

Mr. MacLean.—It is desired that the investigation asked for shall not be made by the men of the Fourth Precinct.

Mr. Martin.—Are you willing to undertake the investigation?

Mr. MacLean.—No.

Mr. Sheehan.—Do you move to refer the matter to the Superintendent for investigation?

Mr. MacLean.—I have made no motion.

Mr. Martin.—It is the duty of the Commissioners to go down into the Fourth Precinct and make personal investigations to ascertain the truth or falsity of the charges against the captain.

Mr. MacLean.—The Superintendent is the executive head of the department.

A motion by Mr. McCave to refer the letter and complaint to the Superintendent for investigation and report was passed by the vote of all four Commissioners.

After the meeting of the Commissioners had adjourned, Superintendent Byrnes said:

"When the papers are referred to me I will take immediate steps to investigate the charges. I cannot say at present how the investigation will be conducted, but if there are such disorderly houses in the Fourth Precinct as those described in the communication by Dr. Parkhurst we shall try to correct the evils complained of, without showing fear or favor to anybody. Captain Slevin has sent reports to me from time to time regarding houses in his precinct, and he has raided a number of the houses. Some of the raids were made recently."

The ACCUSED OFFICER WON'T TALK.

Captain Slevin went to the Central Office late in the afternoon and had a consultation with Inspector Alexander S. Williams, who previously had talked with the Superintendent. When asked by newspaper men what he had to say about the charges, Captain Slevin replied that he was under investigation, and therefore would have nothing at all to say except to his superior officers. Inspector Williams, who it is expected will take some part in the investigation of the complaint against the captain, called on District-Attorney Nicoll, but would not say what his visit was about.

Frank Moss, counsel of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, sent word to District-Attorney Nicoll yesterday that he would be ready before the Extraordinary Grand Jury proof of the crimes of two police officers.

DR. PARKHURST EXPECTED LITTLE ELSE.

When Dr. Parkhurst heard last night of the board's decision to refer the whole matter of Captain Slevin's precinct to Superintendent Byrnes, he smiled and then after a pause said:

"Just what I expected. Of course every one knows what the result of Superintendent Byrnes's investigation will be. Slevin was one of his favorite detective sergeants, and was appointed a good deal through Byrnes's efforts. However, while the Commissioners continue this farce the public are more and more enlightened regarding the true situation. We shall push this fight to the end unless Slevin closes up the sailors' dives and other dens of infamy which disgrace his precinct. Some of my friends tell me that the Fourth Precinct is as far below Captain Devry's little district as the Eleventh below Captain Slevin's.

Our representatives come back from their investigations sickened by the foul, degrading sights which they have been compelled to witness, and I have a right to demand the suppression of these degrading little institutions."

"An instance of the true attitude of the police in regard to prostitution, I will tell you the story of a young married German woman who called on me only a few weeks ago," said Dr. Parkhurst.

"This young woman a few days ago was invaded by two men who wanted to obtain the services of her complaint. I am too busy to trouble my head with these complaints."

DANGER JUST AHEAD.

A Prominent Professor Speaks About the Threatening Things Abroad at This Time of the Year.

"It is surprising how many people are suffering to-day from so-called coughs, colds and influenza."

The remark was made by a very prominent professor, connected with one of the leading New-York hospitals, continuing he said:

"It is not these things that are troubling people, but it is an advanced form of our old enemy, the grip. People feel out of sorts, sneeze, have pains in the muscles and bones, have no appetite, lose all interest in the world and wonder what is the matter. It is the grip, nothing else. Now, all such symptoms need to have prompt treatment. The attack must be met and repelled at once, or one way to certainly avoid these troubles which are now so common, and that is to immediately counteract them by using a good, pure, strong stimulant. Nothing of the ordinary kind, but something pure and scientific. For this purpose nothing has ever equalled Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey, which is acknowledged to-day by physicians and scientific people to be the only pure, medicinal malt whiskey upon the market."

The professor is the man who carries a wonderful name to many, and who is suffering with the first symptoms of grip, or even grip in its advanced stages. For all such people we offer a word of advice, which is to take the best means to overcome these troubles, and do not permit any dealer to swerve you from your purpose to have that which has proven itself by years of use to be the best and purest stimulant in the world."

He WANTED TO KILL DR. PARKHURST.

A slender, shabbily dressed man entered the East One-hundred-and-fourth-st. police station late Monday night and, walking to the railing, shouted in an excited manner "Where is Dr. Parkhurst?" I want to kill him!"

The man held an open penknife in his hand, and waved it about shouting: "Show him to me and I'll carve his heart out." Sergeant Norton, who was at the desk, told the man to be quiet and lay the knife down.

"I won't put it down," he cried. "And I'll kill him if I find him." The man made a savage lunge at Policeman Stevenson, who drew his club and knocked the man on the head, cutting his scalp and knocking him to the floor. When he got on his feet again he was seized by the officer. The man fought furiously, and was soon subdued. When his wound had been dressed he was carried to the Harlem Hospital, the man gave his name as Timothy, and the doctor said he was a mechanic and lived at No. 104 Second-st. He had been drinking heavily for several weeks, and was on the verge of delirium tremens. In the Harlem Police Court he was sent to the Island for five days.

The letter to Captain Slevin quoted sections defining his duties in regard to the suppression of disorderly houses in his precinct, and continued:

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